

PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL

MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Present: Su Almeida, Tom Beall, Becky Bueno, Russell Carey, Dorothy Fields, Nick Figueroa, Crystal Gantz, Bob Kelley, Keith Mathews, Alex Molina, Joop Nagtegaal, Martha Newcomb, Kim Noble, Jean Patiky, Carolyn Pemberton, Abraham Pinales, Earl Smith III

Absent: Leslie Brackett, Carrie Bridges-Feliz, Leeds Mitchell IV

Guests: Tim Groves – Executive Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Schools

Paul Cuffee Staff: Eric Charlesworth, Jon Conklin, Becky, Coustan, Chris Haskins, Carrie McWilliams, Maria Monteiro, Genevieve Schultz, Maria Palmgren

Visitors: Alex Taylor, Sharon Waldman

President Russell Carey called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm and began with a moment of silence.

Mr. Carey introduced Mr. Alex Taylor, LS and MS parent; and Ms. Sharon Waldman, LS and MS parent and MS co-chair of the Parent Association.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Keith Mathews made motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2015 and September 17, 2015 meetings, seconded by Mr. Earl Smith III, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the June 11, 2015 and September 17, 2015 minutes.

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Mr. Chris Haskins explained that the School must comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), a policy which must be approved annually by the Board, as the School receives federally funded discount for telecommunications services. He explained that the CIPA policy for consideration is a standard policy and that it is not intended to be customized. A discussion ensued related to CIPA and the Responsible Use of Technology Agreement. Following the discussion, Mr. Mathews made a motion, seconded by Ms. Su Almeida, to approve the Children's Internet Protection Act policy and the Board unanimously voted to approve the policy.

Rhode Island League of Charter Schools

Mr. Tim Groves, Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools (RILCS), introduced himself and gave an update on the work of the RILCS. He noted that RILCS is presently concentrating on the Rhode Island Fair Funding Formula, and explained its potential impact on charter schools. He also noted that RILCS and RIDE have begun to meet monthly in order to strengthen the collaboration between RIDE and charter schools.

2015 NECAP Science Report

Mr. Haskins reviewed the 2015 NECAP Science scores for students in grades 4, 8 and 11. This year's School's scores are slightly higher than Providence schools, and slightly lower than schools state-wide. Dr. Carrie McWilliams, LS Principal; Mr. Eric Charlesworth, MS Principal; and Ms. Genevieve Schultz, US Academic Dean, each shared examples of queries in which students performed well, and queries in which students did not perform well. Mr. Haskins then informed the Board that all students have begun using science notebooks to think and write like a scientist. Examples of science notebooks were distributed for Trustees to view. Finally, Mr. Haskins shared an overview of the School's PARCC results, and explained that the areas in which students need most support are reading/writing and mathematics.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Trusteeship and Governance (CoTaG)

Mr. Smith III informed the Board that proposed revisions to the by-laws will be circulated to Trustees for review and input, and will be discussed at the January 21, 2016 meeting. He noted that one of the recommendations is that the HR Committee not be a board committee, and instead be a school-based committee. Mr. Carey then informed that Ms. Becky Bueno, current LS faculty Trustee, is on a leave of absence from the School during AY 2015-2016, and that

CoTaG would ask for nominations from LS faculty who are interested to serve on the board on an interim basis. Following his announcement, Ms. Bueno thanked the Board and Head of School for her time on the Board, and stated she agrees that the LS faculty Trustee should be a person who is currently employed at the LS.

Finance Committee

Ms. Kim Noble reported that the Finance Committee voted to recommend to the Board that \$52,867 plus \$24,102 be transferred from Operating Funds to Board Designated Reserve – Capital Replacement. Ms. Noble made the motion, seconded by Mr. Tom Beall, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Noble then extended her appreciation and thanks to Mr. Jon Conklin and his continued efforts and work for the benefit of the Finance Committee and the School.

Other Business

Ms. Sharon Waldman reported that the 8th grade field trip to the Holocaust Museum in New York in spring of 2016, would not be funded this year, as has been in past years, by the museum. She explained that some parents have begun exploring opportunities to fund the trip.

Adjournment

There being no further business coming before the meeting, it was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Palmgren